

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FREETO 02502 231425Z

47

ACTION CU-04

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R 231344Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 553

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SL

SUBJECT: PETERSON INTERVIEW

REF: STATE 276865

FOR CU/AF

1. PETERSON INTERVIEWED BY ACTING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER.

2. BACHELOR MAJOR HISTORY; MINOR ENGLISH LITERATURE AND SECONDARY TEACHERS CERTIFICATE. MASTERS MAJOR HISTORY; MINOR ENGLISH LITERATURE. DOCTORATE MAJOR HISTORY: ENGLISH 1399-1660; AMERICAN 1492-1860; EUROPEAN 1789-PRESENT; AFRICAN. PETERSON TEACHERS AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN HISTORY AT FOURAH BAY COLLEGE. HE CHAIRMAN OF DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY FOR LAST SIX YEARS; ACTING DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES FOR LAST THREE YEARS. BUILT HISTORY STAFF FROM FOUR POSITIONS TO SEVEN AND AFRICANIZED IT FROM ONE PART TIME SIERRA LEONEAN TO FOUR SIERRA LEONEANS (TWO WITH PHDS.) CHANGED FOCUS OF INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES FROM LECTURING TO RESEARCH. IN INSTITUTE DIRECTED MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECT ON IMPACT OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN SIERRA LEONE ON POPULATION MIGRATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY. PETERSON PARTICULARLY COMPETENT WEST AFRICAN HISTORY; ESPECIALLY HISTORY OF UPPER GUINEA COST (LIBERIA TO THE GAMBIA). HE CURRENTLY PUTTING WRAPS ON GENERAL/POPULAR HISTORY OF SIERRA LEONE, ENTITLED, STORY OF SIERRA LEONE, ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION BY FABER & FABER, LONDON. FOR LONGER RANGE PROJECT IS WORKING ON COMPANION VOLUME TO HIS BOOK, PRIVINCE OF FREEDOM, WHICH WILL TRACE SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS FROM 1870-
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PAGE 02 FREETO 02502 231425Z

1940. FUTURE RESEARCH INTERESTS IN AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY, EG,

HE INTERESTED EXPLORING HISTORICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF WEST AFRICAN-CARRIBEAN MIGRATIONS. MOST INTERESTED IN TEACHING AFRO-AMERICAN AND AFRICAN HISTORY.

3. PETERSON VERY ARTICULATE BOTH IN FORMAL LECTURE AND INFORMAL DISCUSSION. HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR TEACHING IS REFLECTED IN HIS RARE ABILITY TO RELATE WELL WITH HIS STUDENTS AND TO STIMULATE THEM IN THEIR STUDIES OF HISTORY. BOTH PETERSON AND WIFE JEANNE VERY WELL LIKED AND PROFESSIONALLY RESPECTED BY STUDENTS AND ADMINISTRATORS AT FOURAH BAY COLLEGE. ACTING PAO, WITH A PHD AND CONSIDERABLE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE, WOULD WELCOME PETERSON TO ANY ACADEMIC PROGRAM IN WHICH HE THOUGHT PETERSON'S SPECIALITY AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE WOULD FIT.
SULLIVAN

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